

UB Law Forum

Volume 9
Number 1 *Winter 1996*

Article 16

1-1-1996

106th Commencement

UB Law Forum

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Recommended Citation

UB Law Forum (1996) "106th Commencement," *UB Law Forum*: Vol. 9 : No. 1 , Article 16.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum/vol9/iss1/16

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Attorney General Vacco urges new graduates to choose civility

R-E-S-P-E-C-T. Aretha Franklin sang about it, and Dennis C. Vacco took up the theme in his keynote address at UB Law School's commencement ceremonies for the Class of 1995.

Vacco, the New York State attorney general and a 1978 graduate of the Law School, spoke of a "decline in civility, courtesy and respect by people for their classmates, co-workers and neighbors," both in society at large and



Maria I. Gonzalez '95 and daughter with Dean Barry B. Boyer.

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in the legal community.

"Unfortunately," he said, "we have seen this lack of respect and civility by lawyers in our courtrooms and in the media." In one trial, Vacco said, one attorney addressed another with the words, "You are conducting yourself like a dog."

That's not good for the individuals involved, but even more, it damages the profession, he said.

"I firmly believe that it is the conduct of the men and women in court that shapes public perception of the justice system," Vacco said. "Especially as lawyers, our No. 1 concern must be encouraging and building respect for the law. Use your talents, your energies, your experiences and all of your contacts as you begin your careers to build a respect for the law."

Such minor incivilities as not returning telephone calls and intentionally scheduling proceedings at inconvenient times, he said, contribute to a damaging climate of disrespect.

But that doesn't mean stifling dissent, he said. Reasonable people may

disagree, Vacco noted, expressing strong support for freedom of expression under the First Amendment. That point was emphasized because it was made shortly after some graduates and their supporters left the Center for the Arts auditorium in protest of the attorney general's decision to remove the phrase "sexual orientation" from the Department of Law's non-discrimination policy.

But even the law, Vacco said, can never replace the power of "normal human discourse" and the art of compromise.

"We don't have to agree on everything," he reiterated, "but that doesn't excuse mean-spirited attacks on those with whom we disagree. Respect for one another is the basis for building respect for our society, and the rules that we have set up to carve out equal opportunity and equal justice."

In his faculty address, Professor Kenneth Joyce entertained the crowd with a few rules, notably the ones with which many students begin their law school education: the rules governing

overhanging tree branches, which he utilized as an example of how the rule of law has its genesis in the most trivial disputes of humanity. "But what makes them lawyers and what makes them important," he said of the graduating students, "is how they learned those rules. In class the students are urged to agree or not agree, to differ or not differ, to listen to others and to keep an open mind all along. It's the intent to do justice which undergirds all law," he said. "That is most important."

The law, Joyce said, is "the use of our reasoning powers, rather than guns, bombs, our lives or dirty looks, to resolve differences.

"Having said all that, of course, does not mean it is easy. In fact, by definition it is a constant struggle."

And he invoked two final rules: the Golden Rule, and the Rule of Yastrzemski. "Carl Yastrzemski figured on a good day he'd get up to bat three times," said Joyce, a Boston native and longtime Red Sox fan. "And he always said, 'Whether you go



Susan L. Fox '95



*Honorable
Barbara Howe '80*

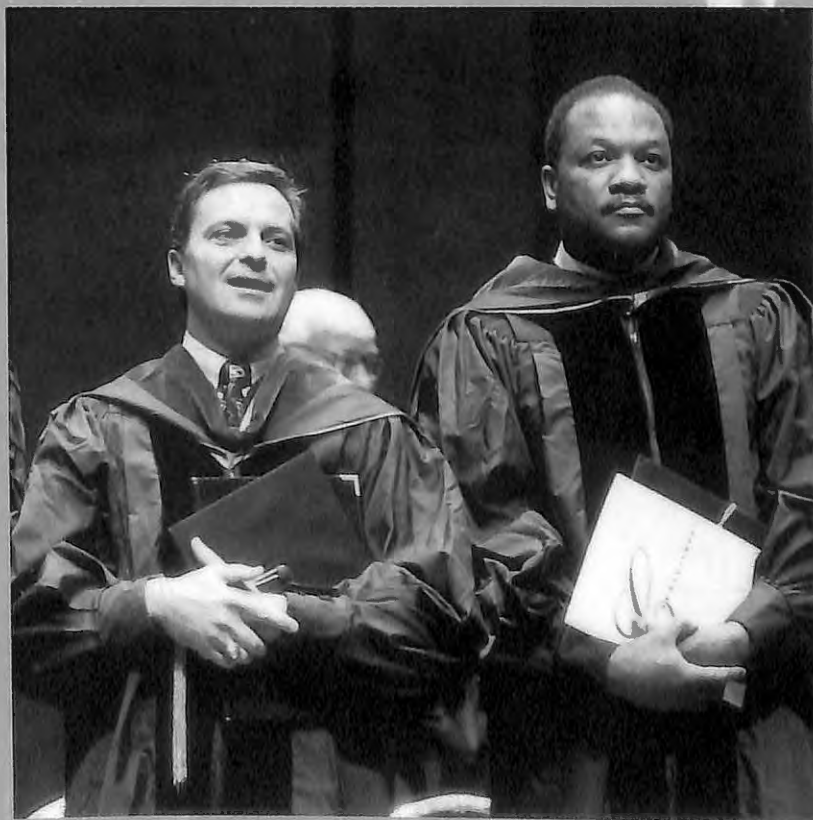
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3 for 3 or 0 for 3, there's always tomorrow.' So enjoy today," he told the graduates, "because there is always tomorrow."

The student address was by Susan L. Fox, who quoted Abraham Lincoln on the power of engaging one's dream: "Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other thing." She followed that with the caveat that "we must strive to look past our own hopes and ambitions, and work to better the community as a whole."

Fox noted the current image problems of the legal profession, pointing out that in the movie "Jurassic Park" it was the lawyer who was eaten first by the T. Rex — the movie's comic relief.

And she, too, left the graduates with two rules to live by: "Carpe diem," the old Latin admonition to "seize the day" and live life to its fullest; and "Life is too important to be taken seriously." ■



Dennis C. Vacco '78 and Michael A. Battle '81

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Awards & Prizes

The Max Koren Award: Honors the senior judged by the faculty to be the outstanding member of the graduating class. The selected student receives a specially cast plaque and a prize. This award is supported by a gift from the late M. Robert Koren, Class of 1944, and son of Max Koren. Recipient: Charles D. Grieco

The John N. Bennett Achievement Award: Presented to the graduate who, in the judgment of the faculty and the dean, has exemplified the highest standards of the profession by virtue of scholastic achievement, leadership and dedication to the ideals of the law. The award is named in honor of John N. Bennett, Class of 1933. Recipient: Brian Alan Goldstein

The Dale S. Margulis Award: Dale S. Margulis, Class of 1982, died suddenly in August 1982. To honor his memory, his classmates, family and friends established the

Dale S. Margulis Award, presented to the graduate who has contributed most to the Law School and the community. Candidates are nominated by members of the graduating class, and the recipient is selected by the deans. Recipient: Helen Punders

Charles Dautch Award: Presented to the graduate who has demonstrated the greatest proficiency in courses, examinations and independent research in the law of real property. Charles Dautch, a well-known lawyer in Buffalo for 61 years, graduated from the Buffalo Law School in 1919. He was widely respected for his public service activities. The award has been endowed by his family. Recipient: Maureen Busch Elwell

The Adolf Homburger Law Alumni Association Award: Given to a third-year student whose academic achievements in civil procedure and whose compassion for people best exemplify the qualities that Adolf Homburger sought to instill in his students. A native of Austria,

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Dorka A. Martinez and her proud father.

Professor Homburger practiced law in Vienna before coming to the United States in the late '30s. He then attended our Law School and graduated in 1941. He served the Law School with distinction as a member of the faculty from 1960 to 1977. The Law Alumni Association supports the award. Recipient: Elizabeth Theresa Mazzaro.

The Judge Matthew J. Jasen Appellate Practice Award: Presented to the graduate who in course work and moot court competition has shown outstanding achievement in appellate advocacy. The award is given in honor of Judge Jasen, Class of 1939, and is supported by his friends and former clerks. Recipient: Christian Casini

The David Kochery Award: Provided by the family and friends of David Kochery, who taught at the Law School from 1953 to 1980, this award is presented to the graduate who has taken an active part in the student community through service and involvement in one or more student organizations, and who has performed exceptionally well in courses in civil procedure and remedies. Recipient: Julia Ann Solo

The Laidlaw Law Alumni Association Award: This award commemorates William Laidlaw, a beloved professor and practitioner. Professor Laidlaw taught on the law faculty from 1926 to 1962. The award is given to the best student in the area of commercial law, as described by the faculty, and is provided by the Law Alumni Association. Recipient: Victor Manuel Bobet

The Moot Evidence Award: Presented for the best performance in the area of evidence as determined by the faculty. The award is given in

exceptional trial lawyer prior to his untimely death at age 44. The awards are presented by the Erie County Trial Lawyers Association. Recipients:

For Fall 1994

Marni Bogart
Jeffrey J. Calabrese
Christian C. Casini
Jay Jason Chantarpaul
Brian David Doyle
Paul Joseph Glascott
Christin Everett Horsley
David Richard Koepsell
Terri Lynn LoTempio
Dylan Sinclair Mitchell
Mark Christian Somers
Kevin D. Szczepanski

For Spring 1995

Timothy J. Andruschat
John F. Bolton
Richard A. Braden II
Patricia Christine Campbell
Suzanne Cristo
Karen L. Judd
Nicole Marie Marro
Eugene Joseph Martin Jr.
Mirna Eleonor Martinez
Jill M. Tuholski
Terence William Waldorf
Bernadette Weaver-Catalana

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honor of Welles and Caroline Moot and in remembrance of Adelbert Moot, who taught evidence in the founding years of the Law School. Recipient: Ruthanne Wannop

The Judge William J. Regan Award: For the graduate who has demonstrated the greatest proficiency in estates and surrogate's law, and who is motivated by a strong concern for public service and public welfare. The award is named in honor of Judge Regan, Class of 1938, Erie County Surrogate from 1963 to 1981. During his long career in practice and on the bench, he served the community with distinction. This award is supported from a fund donated by friends of Judge Regan. Recipient: Mindy J. Birman

Birzon Prize in Clinical Legal Studies: Given in honor of Israel and Irene Birzon, parents of Paul Birzon, distinguished lawyer and adjunct faculty member at the Law School. The prize recognizes a graduate who has demonstrated excellence in the Law School's clinical and trial advocacy program. Recipient: Marianne Fuierer

The Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Awards: These are presented to the best students in the course in trial technique, as selected by their instructors. The awards are presented in honor of Robert J. Connelly, who was an

Carlos C. Alden Award: Carlos C. Alden was dean of the Law School from 1904 to 1936 and professor of law from 1904 to 1955. Given in his honor, the award is presented to the senior making the greatest contribution to the Buffalo Law Review, as decided by the Law Review members. Recipient: Matthew P. Murphy

The Justice Philip Halpern Award: Prior to becoming a justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Justice Halpern was dean of the Law School and a member of the faculty for 27 years. The Halpern award is given to a graduating senior for excellence in writing on the Law Review. The winner is determined by the members. Recipient: Alana Marie Fuierer

The Prentice-Hall Award: Given to the student whose academic performance in tax is outstanding, as recommended by the faculty. The award is made up of books on tax provided by Prentice-Hall. Recipient: Darryl Craig Salas

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Awards & Prizes

Law Faculty Award: Each year, the faculty presents to one or more graduates a special faculty award recognizing outstanding contributions to the Law School. Recipients:

Jean Ritchie Brenner
Helen Punders
Penny Beth Selmonsky
Nancy E. Stroud
Kelly Linn Ball and Marni Bogart, jointly

The Maurice Frey Award: Given annually to that graduate whose academic performance in family law is most exceptional. It is named to honor the memory of Maurice Frey, a prominent attorney who cared deeply about legal education and taught at the Law School for a number of years. He also worked tirelessly in the community to ensure that our legal system served and protected all members of our society. Recipient: Sara Stout Ashcraft

The Ethics Award: The recipient of this award is selected by the dean upon recommendation of the faculty members who teach courses in legal profession and professional responsibility based on either the best "written article, essay or other exposition on the subject of legal professional responsibility or legal ethics" or a "substantial action or activity in furtherance of legal professional responsibility or legal ethics." Recipients: Edward Allan Gibson and Jeanne Marie Kupinsky

The Minority Bar Association of Western New York Award: Presented to a graduate who, in the judgment of the Minority Bar Association and the Law School, has exemplified high standards of the profession by virtue of scholastic achievement and leadership. The recipient also must demonstrate a significant commitment to effectuating changes within the legal system that addresses the needs of the minority community. Recipient: Maria Isabel Gonzalez Brewster

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Bureau of National Affairs Inc. Law Student Award
— **U.S. Law Week Award:** Offered to a graduate judged by the faculty to have made the most satisfactory progress in his or her final year. This award provides either a subscription to U.S. Law Week or the BNA Civil Trial Manual. Recipient: Darryl Craig Salas

Callaghan and Co. Award: Callaghan and Co., an established law and tax publisher with a 125-year history, provides a set of books to the graduate who has achieved the most outstanding academic record. Recipient: Leslie A. Ringle

Order of Barristers: The Order of Barristers is a national oralists honors society. Members include students who have shown dedication and have excelled in the art of oral advocacy and service to the Moot Court Board. Each year, 10 students are elected to membership in the organization.

and writing skills;

- attracting more students to the programs of the Jaekle Center for State and Local Government Law, increasing resources for its research and publication efforts.

Recipients:

Education Law

Molly Kathleen Brennan
Colleen Ennis Buonocore
William Patrick Farley
Thomas Dodd Glascock
Mimi Cheng-Yun Meng
Jay Charles Fletcher
Cynthia Christine Valderrey
Heather Laurie Vigue

Environmental Law

Wendy Ann Marsh
James Andrew Crolle III
Eric Matthew Falkenberry
Michael R. Jung
John Francis O'Shea
Sallie Glazier Randolph
Charles Warren Russell
Edward Z. Starishevsky
Teresa Judith Weinreber

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Recipients, Order of Barristers Award:

Jeremy Miller Brown
Simon Rene Conte
Suzanne Cristo
Pamela Ann Koplik
Alisa Ann Lukasiewicz
Dylan Sinclair Mitchell
Daniel Christopher Moreland
Sharon Jean Pigman
Christopher John Shea
Gina Marie Vitiello

Government Law Program: The purpose of the program is to give formal recognition to students who successfully complete a program of specialized studies in state and local government law in pursuing their J.D. degrees, thereby:

- providing students the opportunity to become specially competent in state and local government law;
- contributing to the quality of lawyering, legal research and law reform, wherever our graduates may apply their knowledge and skills in state and local government law;
- encouraging law students to enhance their research

Real Estate Development and Finance

Joseph Andrew Kresse
Marjory Elizabeth Avant
Jason Michael Carusone
Maureen Busch Elwell
Lori Elizabeth Carbaugh
Christine L. Keller
James William Pfau
Charles Warren Russell
James David Ward
Teresa Judith Weinreber

State and Local Government

James Frank Armstrong
Maureen Busch Elwell
John Joseph Flynn Jr.
Arthur Kenneth Posluszny

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